Secrets. II-97—100,000—31-5-52.

# E & P.H (1947) Department.

B SERIES.

G.O. No. 3141 P. H

Dated 16-9-47.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION : 1946 : REPORT REVIEWED.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - 1946 - Report - Reviewed

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Education and Public Health Department.

G.O. (Ms) No. 3141. P.H. Dated, the 16th September 1947

READ - the following:

Reference from the Director of Public Health, dated 14th June 1947, R. No. 37538-1.VS/47.

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ORDER:

Recorded.

2. VITAL STATISTICS - GENERAL: The Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Act III of 1899) continued to be in force throughout the Province, except in the Agency tracts and some backward and excluded areas. There have been cases of defaults in the registration of statistics in villages and delays in the submission of returns. Steps are being taken to impress upon the revenue subordinates once again the importance of enforcing strictly the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act and the rules thereunder.

The birth rate increased from 29.45 in 1945 to 31.62 per 1000 of estimated mid-year population, in 1946, reaching almost the pre-war level. There was a marked fall in the death rate from 22.27 in 1945 to 18.88 in 1946. The number of deaths recorded was lower under every cause except plague. The rate of infantile mortality fell from 169.44 in 1945 to 146.88 in 1946 and it was the lowest on record during the past 26 years. The maternal mortality rate also declined from 9.29 in 1945 to 7.94 per 1000 births in 1946.

3. CHIEF DISEASES - Cholera: The number of deaths from cholera declined sharply from 8,494 in 1945 to 753 in 1946, the mortality on account of this disease being the lowest on record in the past 65 years. About two thirds of the total cholera mortality occurred in the districts of Kitna, Nellore, Vizagapatam, Guntur and Trichinopoly.

Small pox: The number of deaths from small pox also considerably decreased from 20,636 in 1945 to 7,923 in 1946. The districts that returned high small-pox mortality were Guntur, Malabar, Chittoor, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Nellore, West Godavari and North Arcot.

Plague: The mortality from plague increased to 2,254 during the year, as against 1,644 in 1945. The District mainly affected was Coimbatore, which contributed 80 per cent of the total number of deaths from plague. Besides the usual preventive measures of anti-plague inoculations and cynegas fumigation, experimental studies were undertaken to determine the relative efficacy of D.D.T. as a pulicide as compared with Cyanogas. The results of the experiments are awaited with interest. The special scheme for the investigation and control of plague in the Nilgiris district was in progress.

Leprosy: The Madras Provincial Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Association continued to be generally in charge of leprosy work in the Province. An ad. hoc Committee consisting of officials and non-officials was constituted to go into the question of leprosy control and to make recommendations for its improvement. A scheme for the training of Rural Medical Practitioners in Leprosy at the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Chingleput, was sanctioned.

Tuberculosis: 85,854 cases were treated for tuberculosis (pulmonary and other tubercular diseases) in medical institutions in 1946 as against 86,407 in 1945. In the Post War Scheme, provision has been made for improved facilities to combat this disease.

Fevers: The number of deaths from fevers decreased from 301,178 in 1945 to 248,663 in 1946.

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Dysentery and Diarrohea: The number of deaths from this group of causes decreased from 7[illegible],106 in 1945 to 62,621 in 1946.

Other causes of deaths: The number of deaths classified under this head came to about 56 per cent of the total deaths during the year.

Research: Schemes for the bilogical control of Guinewaworm disease was in progress. Studies of different species of small indigenous fresh water fish, to test their cyclopecidal quality were carried out. Chemical treatment of water sources with lime to destroy cyclops was also tried side by side with the biological method.

Malaria Control: The reorganised Bureau of Malariology established in 1945 continued to function during the year. All the existing anti-malaria schemes were in progress and new schemes for malaria control in Paderu near Gudivada and Nugur in the East Godavari Agency tract were sanctioned with a First Class Health Officer in charge of each. A separate First Class Health Officer was also sanctioned to be in charge of the anti-malarial measures in the Machkund Hydro-Electric Project and the Ramapadasagar Project.

Quinine and quinine substitutes were freely distributed as usual by the Health staff in all endemic areas. Trials with the new anti-malaria drug, Paludrine, to assess its curative and preventive value were undertaken.

D.D.T. was widely used for residual spraying of houses. Pyrethrum was also employed with effect in certain circumstances. Experiments were also conducted to determine the most effective and economic method of using D.D.T. in malaria control work.

4. FAIRS AND FESTIVALS: Elaborate sanitary arrangements were made to safeguard the health and convenience of the large gatherings of people at the various fairs and festivals during the year. All the festivals passed off without any outbreak of epidemics.

5. HEALTH PROPAGANDA: As in previous years, health education and propaganda formed part of the routine work of the Health staff. Lectures, talks, cinema shows, and exhibitions were arranged. Weekly bboadcasts on the public health condition in the province were made. Some progress was made in regard to the improvement of environmental hygiene and soil sanitation.

6. POONAMALLEE HEALTH UNIT: The reorganised health unit was functioning during the year and some progress was made in the provisio of water-supply, conservancy and maternity and child-welfare services. The unit continued to be an important training centre for public health workers.

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Maternity and Child Welfare work continued to progress satisfactorily during the year in spite of a dearth of candidates for appointment as Women and Medical Officers and Health Visistors. Twwnty-three new centres were opened during the year. A sum of Rs. 1,50,707 was sanctioned by Government as grants to local bodies for Maternity and Child Welfare activities in 1945-46 as compared to Rs. 1,22,797 in 1944-45.

8. FOOD ADULTERATION: The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was extended to 13 more panchayats during the year. Further extension of the Act was rendered dififcult owing to paucity of laboratory facilities for the Government Analyst. The percentage of adulterated samples decreased slightly from 46.70 in 1945 to 46.0 in 1946.

9. TOWN PLANNING AND HOUSING: The Town Planning Act was in force in 83 municipalities including the Corporation of Madras and in 92 panchayat Owing to the acute demand for housing, all urban local authorities evince a keen interest to push ahead their Town Planning Schemes.

10. NUTRITION: The establishment of a Bureau of Nutrition under an Assistant Director of Public Health with two regional units, one at Trichinopoly and the other at Anantapur, each under a First Class Health

Health Officer, was sanctioned by Government during the year. The post of Assistant Director of Public Health (Nutrition) was not, however, filled up. Detailed diet surveys were undertaken in about 450 families in various districts. They disclosed a general deficiency in the consumption of protective foods. Three nutrition exhibitions were organised during the year and 175 broadcast talks on various aspects of food and nutrition were given. Twenty-four food propagandists were trained in nutrition at the Central Laboratory. Studies of dietaries of institutions and examination of samples of foodstuffs to test their fitness for human consumption were also conducted in the Laboratory.

11. VACCINATION: The total number of vaccinations done during the year was 8,584,105 compared with 1,197,270 in 1945. The decrease is due to less number of re-vaccinations done with the subsidence of the smallpox epidemic in 1945. The number of vaccinations done in the year, however, represented 16.5 per cent of the population of Province as compared to 14.1 per cent in 1944 and 23.2 per cent in 1945.

12. GENERAL: Major J.H. Gorman, I.M.S., continued to be the Director of Public Health till 14th May 1946 when he proceeded on leave. Rao Bahadur Dr. R.M. Mathew succeeded him as Director of Public Health and continues as such.

The difficult living conditions coupled with acute food shortage and abnormally high prices continued during the year. Still, it is gratifying to note that the public health of the Province as a whole, showed considerable improvement and the Province was comparatively free from the epidemics of cholera and smallpox and that the cholera mortality was the lowest on record in the past 65 years.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

C.O. COOREY
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Health.
To the Surgeon-General (with copy of report)
To the Public Department.
To the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India (with copy of Report)
To the Consul for the United States of America at Madras (with copy of Report)
Copy to the Public (Informtion and Publicity) Department (with a copy of Report)

/True copy/

R. Thiagarajan 27-1-54
Office Assistant,
Record Office, Egmore.

Madras

Sk.